

Program Announcements (PA'S)

MULTIPURPOSE ARTHRITIS AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES CENTERS

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National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) uses a variety of award mechanisms to accomplish its research mission. Among these mechanisms is the P60 award for a multipurpose arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases center.

The application guidelines for the multipurpose arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases centers have been revised and are in effect for all applications received on or after June 1, 1990.

Fourteen centers are currently funded by NIAMS. Organizations not currently funded are encouraged to consider applying for this program. Eligible organizational entities are major medical complexes in the United States with a base of meritorious biomedical research related to arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases. Institutional programs in education, epidemiology, and/or health services that can be related to arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases should also be present. The center fosters a multidisciplinary research approach to the manifold problems of arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases. The center grant is not intended to provide total funding for all of these activities, but to provide funds for development of new capabilities for research and related activities.

A multipurpose arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases center has two major research coordinating components: biomedical research and research in education, epidemiology, and health services. An administrative unit provides oversight. The interactions afforded by the administrative unit and two research components provide opportunities to promote new research directions through developmental and feasibility projects and through core units. In addition, research projects in education, epidemiology, and/or health services are supported. The NIH urges applicants for grants to give added attention (where feasible and appropriate) to the inclusion of minority groups and women in the study populations for research.

APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

Applications in response to this announcement will be reviewed in accordance with standard NIH peer review procedures for research center grants. Review criteria include significance and originality of the research goals and approaches; feasibility of the research and adequacy of the experimental design; training, research competence, and dedication of the investigators; adequacy of available facilities; and provision for the humane care of animals and appropriate use of human subjects. Funding decisions will be based on peer review group and National Advisory Council recommendations. Applications should be submitted on form PHS-398 (rev. 10/88), available in the business or grants office at most academic research institutions, or from the NIH Division of Research Grants. Applications will be accepted in accordance with the submission dates for new and competing center grant applications on a continuing basis:

February 1, June 1, October 1

The phrase "RESPONSE TO NIAMS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT: MULTIPURPOSE ARTHRITIS AND MUSCULOSKELETAL DISEASES CENTER, PA-90-24" should be typed on line 2 of the face page of the application. The original and six copies should be sent or delivered to:

Grant Application Receipt Office
Division of Research Grants
Westwood Building, Room 240
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, MD 20892-4500**

Because of the limitations and the special nature of the program, potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact NIAMS staff to discuss the scope, content, size, and timing of any applications for this program. Initial inquiries and requests for the revised guidelines and additional information should be directed to:

Julia B. Freeman, Ph.D.
Centers Program Director
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
Westwood Building, Room 403
Bethesda, MD 20892
Telephone: (301) 496-7495

This program is described in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance No.13.846, Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Research. Awards will be made under the authority of the Public Health Service Act, administered under PHS grant policies and Federal Regulations 42 CFR Part 52 and 45 CFR Part 74. This program is not subject to the intergovernmental review requirements of Executive Order 12372 or Health Systems Agency.